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## Tension in Abuja as mob kills vigilante over alleged blasphemy

Lawrence Bajah | Abuja

A mob in Abuja on Saturday stoned and set ablaze a 30-year-old Ahmad Usman, member of a vigilante group, for allegedly making statements deemed to be blasphemous.

Trouble started when members of the vigilante group guarding the Tipper Garage at the Federal Housing Estate Lugbe, a satellite town in Abuja, tried to ar-

rest some residents wandering around the market in the early hours of Saturday.

The residents were said to have begged the vigilante group to free them in the name of Allah, but one of the vigilantes kicked and made comments said to be blasphemous.

A trader in the market, who spoke to Sunday Tribune in confidence, said the vigilante man was beaten and stoned before he was

set ablaze on the prompting of one Muslim cleric.

The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Police Command confirmed the incident and claimed that it had since brought the situation under control.

In a statement by the FCT Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Josephine Adeh, FCT Police Commissioner Babaji Sunday was quoted as saying Usman got into an argument with a cleric.

(Malam) whose name is yet unknown, from the same area.

"The heated argument degenerated into an outbreak of violence that led to the murder and setting ablaze of Ahmad Usman by the enraged mob mobilised by the cleric numbering about 200.

"Normalcy has since been restored, while monitoring and surveillance of the area continues."